

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claim 23, without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter thereof, and add new claims 29-38 to address aspects of the present invention. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 29-38 will be pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 23 because of informalities; and rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,555,098 to Parulski ("Parulski").¹

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's objection and rejection. However, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claim 23. The objection to and the rejection of claim 23 are therefore moot.

Applicants have also added new claims 29-38 to address aspects of the present invention. Support for claims 29-38 may be found at, for example, pages 18, 19, and 76, Figs. 1-3 and 13 of the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 29-38 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the Examiner's applied references.

For example, independent claim 29 recites, *inter alia*, "the first management information includes sequence information regarding a display sequence of still images of the image information and timing information regarding a display timing of the still images, [and] the second management information includes numeral information describing a number status of the still images."

Parulski discloses a method and apparatus "for use with a system including a digital data base for storing respectively corresponding digitized images and digitized

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

audio messages . . . The digitized images are stored as image data files in the digital data base. Likewise, the digitized audio messages are stored as audio data files in the same data base. In accordance with the invention, audio messages and images may be associated with each other. This is accomplished by means of a mapping arrangement, which may include a mapping table including addresses or IDs of pairs of associated images and audio messages or IDs of associated files stored in headers or presentation control files associated with the image and audio files.” Parulski, column 2, line 58 - column 3, line 6, emphasis added.

However, Parulski’s teaching of a mapping arrangement based on the data base does not constitute “the first management information includes sequence information regarding a display sequence of still images of the image information and timing information regarding a display timing of the still images, [and] the second management information includes numeral information describing a number status of the still images,” as recited in new claim 29 (emphasis added).

In fact, Parulski teaches away from using “sequence information” in “the first management information.” In Parulski, “[a] user simply pushes a button labeled for a desired subject. Responsive to the user pushing the button, the controller 26 directs the reader 28 to read appropriate image and audio data files whose contents relate to the desired subject. The system then operates as described above to display the image and play back the audio message.” Parulski, column 6, lines 46-51, emphasis added. Such user defined display control is contrary to “the first management information includes sequence information regarding a display sequence of still images,” as recited in claim 29.

Moreover, Parulski is silent on "the second management information includes numeral information describing a number status of the still images," as recited in claim 29. A mere address or other identification information does not constitute "numeral information describing a number status of the still images," as recited in claim 29.

Therefore, Parulski fails to disclose or suggest all elements of claim 29. New claim 29 is thus allowable over Parulski. Further, independent claims 31-34 and 36, while of different scope, include similar recitations to those of claim 29. Claims 31-34 and 36 are therefore also allowable over Parulski. Because claims 30, 35, 37, and 38 depend from corresponding allowable base claims, claims 30, 35, 37, and 38 are also allowable.

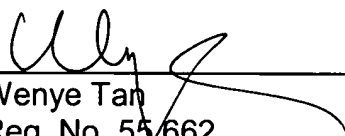
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 1, 2006

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